

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selling method of the unused capacity can be through market-based mechanisms.

3-5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 5,~~ A method for dynamically reconfiguring a proxy server network to deliver content by dynamically selling extra capacity, comprising the steps of:

determining unused capacity on the proxy server network for a period of time;

selling the said unused capacity for a specified period of time to web sites or other service providers which need additional capacity;

using said unused capacity to serve requests to the said web sites or other service providers purchasing the extra capacity for said period of time; and

providing a controller to monitor and control traffic from the web sites or other service providers to be within a limit of the capacity purchased;

wherein said controller uses a domain name server based approach wherein the domain name server performs name to address mapping for assigning the request to proxy servers of the proxy server network;

wherein the said domain name server based approach makes the domain name server of the proxy server network a primary domain name server, which is the only domain name server that can assign names to the proxy servers; and

wherein said domain name server based approach further comprises the steps of:

the domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site routing the name to address map of said purchaser World Wide Web site to said domain name server of the proxy network; and

said primary domain name server mapping a fraction of the received mapping requests to servers in the proxy network based on an amount of unused capacity purchased.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein mapping requests which were not mapped to servers in the proxy network are returned by said primary domain name server to said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site to be mapped to a server of the purchaser's World Wide Web site.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein mapping requests which were not mapped to servers in the proxy network are assigned by said primary domain name server to servers in the purchaser World Wide Web site using an assignment algorithm provided by said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site.

9-12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 12,~~ A method for dynamically reconfiguring a proxy server network to deliver content by dynamically selling extra capacity, comprising the steps of:

determining unused capacity on the proxy server network for a period of time;

selling the said unused capacity for a specified period of time to web sites or other service providers which need additional capacity;

using said unused capacity to serve requests to the said web sites or other service providers purchasing the extra capacity for said period of time;

wherein said unused capacity can be based on an estimate of the usage of the proxy server network over time and said unused capacity can be provided based on the best efforts of the proxy server network;

and further comprising:

providing a controller to monitor and control the traffic from the purchaser to the proxy server network; and

wherein said controller uses a domain name server based approach wherein the domain name server performs name to address mapping for assigning the request to proxy servers of the proxy server network;

wherein the said domain name server based approach makes the domain name server of the proxy server network a primary domain name server, such that no other domain name server can assign names to the proxy servers; and

wherein said domain name server based approach comprises the steps of:

the domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site routing the name to address map of said purchaser World Wide Web site to said domain name server of the proxy network; and

said domain name server of the proxy network mapping a fraction of received mapping requests to servers in the proxy network based on an amount of unused capacity on the proxy server available.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said domain server of the proxy network monitors a load level on the proxy servers to adjust said fraction based on said unused capacity on the proxy server at any given time.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein mapping requests which were not mapped to servers in the proxy network are returned to said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site to be mapped to a server of the purchaser's World Wide Web site.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein mapping requests which were not mapped to servers in the proxy network are assigned to servers in the purchaser World Wide Web site using an assignment algorithm provided by said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 13, wherein a financial charge for the unused capacity will be based on the purchaser World Wide Web site's actual usage of the unused capacity.

18. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said selling method consists of selling the unused proxy capacity through an auction.

19. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the selling method consists of selling the unused proxy capacity through a real-time continuous market.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 6, wherein said controller sets the fraction of requests to be served by the proxy network, comprising the steps of:

setting an initial value based on a number provided by the purchaser World Wide Web site on the fraction of total requests needed to be routed to the proxy servers;

monitoring an actual number of World Wide Web object requests served by the proxy servers;

adjusting the fraction of World Wide Web object requests served so that the actual number of World Wide Web object requests served does not use more proxy server capacity than was purchased.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the remaining object requests which were not served by the proxy server are returned to said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site to be served by a server of the purchaser's World Wide Web site.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the remaining object requests which were not served by the proxy server are assigned to servers in the purchaser World Wide Web site using an assignment algorithm provided by said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein said controller sets the fraction of requests to be served by the proxy network, comprising the steps of:

setting an initial value based on an estimate from the purchaser World Wide Web site on the fraction of total requests needed to be routed to the proxy servers;

monitoring the actual number of World Wide Web object requests served by the proxy servers;

adjusting the fraction of World Wide Web object requests served so that the actual number of World Wide Web object requests served does not use more proxy server capacity than was purchased.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein object requests which were not served by the proxy server are returned to said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site to be served by a server of the purchaser's World Wide Web site.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein object requests which were not served by the proxy server are assigned to servers in the purchaser World Wide Web site using an assignment algorithm provided by said domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site.

26-30. (canceled)

31. (currently amended) ~~The computer executable code of claim 30 further comprising:~~

Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for dynamically reconfiguring a proxy server network to deliver content by dynamically selling extra capacity, comprising:

code to determine unused capacity on the proxy server network for a period of time;
code to sell the said unused capacity for a specified period of time to web sites or other service providers which need additional capacity;

code to use said unused capacity to serve requests to the said web sites or other service providers purchasing the extra capacity for said period of time;

code to sell the unused capacity through market-based mechanisms;
code to monitor and control traffic from the web sites or other service providers to be within a limit of the capacity purchased;

code to use a domain name server based approach wherein the domain name server performs name to address mapping for assigning the request to proxy servers of the proxy server network;

code to make the domain name server of the proxy server network a primary domain name server, such that no other domain name server can assign names to the proxy servers;

code to make the domain name server of the purchaser World Wide Web site route the name to address map of said purchaser World Wide Web site to said domain name server of the proxy network; and

code to make the primary domain name server map a fraction of the received mapping requests to servers in the proxy network based on the amount of unused capacity purchased.

32-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) ~~The computer system of claim 36 further comprising:~~

A computer system for dynamically reconfiguring a proxy server network to deliver content by dynamically selling extra capacity, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and
a processor for executing the program code stored in memory, wherein the program code includes:

code to determine unused capacity on the proxy server network for a period of time;
code to sell the said unused capacity for a specified period of time to web sites or other
service providers which need additional capacity;

code to use said unused capacity to serve requests to the said web sites or other service
providers purchasing the extra capacity for said period of time;

code to sell the unused capacity through market-based mechanisms;
code to monitor and control traffic from the web sites or other service providers to be
within a limit of the capacity purchased;

code to use a domain name server based approach wherein the domain name server
performs the name to address mapping for assigning the request to proxy servers of the proxy
server network;

code to make the domain name server of the proxy server network a primary domain
name server, which is the only domain name server that can assign names to the proxy servers;

~~code stored in memory~~ to make the domain name server of the purchaser World Wide
Web site route the name to address map of said purchaser World Wide Web site to said domain
name server of the proxy network; and

~~code stored in memory~~ to make the primary domain name server map a fraction of the
received mapping requests to servers in the proxy network based on the amount of unused
capacity purchased.